

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. ~~A method for processing documents in a computer system, the~~
2 method comprising:
3 executing a command, as part of execution of an application program,
4 to transfer a document between a processing device in the computer system
5 and a peripheral device;
6 transferring document data between the processing device and the
7 peripheral device in response to the command; and
8 archiving the document data in a memory in the computer system in
9 response to the command and transparently to the application program.
- 1 2. The method defined in Claim 1 wherein the step of archiving
2 the document data is performed transparently to an operating system
3 running on the computer system.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of archiving the
2 document data comprises:
3 running software on the computer system to monitor a device
4 driver for the peripheral device while the application program runs;
5 capturing the document data when the device driver operates to
6 invoke transfer of the document data; and

7 converting the document data to an image of the document data.

1 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the document image is stored
2 in a format that includes one format from the group consisting of Postscript,
3 PCL, TIFF, GIFF, PDF and FLAS4PIX.

1 5. The method of Claim 3, wherein the document image is stored
2 in a text file format.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the memory is a storage
2 device in which storage is partitioned between a file archiving system and a
3 document archiving system.

1 7. The method of Claim 4, wherein the document data is stored
2 as a record in a database maintained in a remote storage facility.

1 8. The method of Claim 4, wherein the document data is stored
2 as an record in a database maintained in a paperless printer.

1 9. The method of Claim 4, wherein the document data is stored
2 as an entry in a database maintained in the storage device.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising capturing a source
2 filename of the document.

1 11. The method defined in Claim 10, further comprising providing
2 links between an archived document data and the original document data.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is
2 coupled to a network interface of the computer system.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising accessing archived
2 documents via a browser interface.

1 14. The method defined in Claim 13 further comprising accessing
2 files stored in the memory storing the archived documents using the
3 browser interface.

1 15. The method defined in Claim 13 further comprising requesting
2 a subset of all documents stored based on object type.

1 16. The method defined in Claim 15 further comprising requesting
2 a subset of all documents stored based on application program type.

1 17. A method for automatically archiving document images in a
2 computer system, the method comprising the steps of:
3 monitoring transfers of document data between peripheral devices in
4 the computer system and at least one processing device running application
5 programs in the computer system;
6 capturing a copy of all document data generated as output by the
7 application programs transparently to the application program; and
8 storing the document data in a memory in the computer system.

1 18. The method of Claim 17 further comprising:
2 capturing electronic activities of computer system processing; and
3 storing a document containing a record of the electronic activities in
4 the memory.

1 19. The method of Claim 17 further comprising:

2 capturing completion of a network document; and
3 storing the network document as a record in the memory.

1 20. The method defined in Claim 17 wherein storing the
2 document data is performed transparently to the operating system.

1 21. The method of Claim 17, further comprising:
2 running software on the computer system to monitor a device
3 driver for the peripheral device while application programs run;
4 capturing the document data when the device driver operates to
5 evoke transfer of document data; and
6 converting the document data in an image of the document data for
7 storage.

1 22. The method of Claim 17, wherein the memory is a storage
2 device in which storage is partitioned between a file archiving system and a
3 document archiving system.

1 23. The method of Claim 17, further comprising accessing
2 archived documents via a browser interface.

1 24. The method defined in Claim 23, further comprising accessing
2 files stored in the memory using the browser interface.

1 25. The method defined in Claim 17, further comprising:
2 capturing a source filename of the document; and
3 providing links between archived document data and the original
4 document data.

1 26. A computer system comprising:
2 at least one peripheral device coupled to the bus;
3 a memory storing at least one application program and an archiving
4 program;
5 a bus coupled to the memory;
6 a processor coupled to the bus, the processor running at least one
7 application program and the archiving program to automatically capture
8 documents created during execution of said at least one application program
9 and store captured documents in the memory via execution of the archiving
10 program transparently with respect to said at least one application program.

1 27. The system defined in Claim 26 wherein the processor executes
2 a command to transfer the document and the archiving program monitors a

3 device driver of said at least one application program to capture the
4 document.

1 28. The system defined in Claim 26 wherein the memory stores an
2 operating system which is executed by the processor and wherein the
3 documents are captured transparently to the operating system.

1 29. The system defined in Claim 26 wherein the computer system
2 is partitioned between a file archiving system and a document archiving
3 system.

1 30. The system defined in Claim 26 wherein the archiving program
2 includes an interface which is generated by the processor to enable accessing
3 of the archived documents via a browser interface.

1 31. The system defined in Claim 30 wherein files stored in the
2 memory are also accessed via the browser interface.

1 32. A computer software product including a medium readable by a
2 processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions
3 which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to:

4 execute a command, as part of execution of an application program, to
5 transfer a document between a processing device in the computer system
6 and a peripheral device;
7 transfer document data between the processing device and the
8 peripheral device in response to the command; and
9 archiving the document data in a memory in the computer system in
10 response to the command and transparently to the application program.

1 33. An apparatus for processing documents in computer systems
2 comprising:
3 means for executing a command, as part of execution of an application
4 program, to transfer a document between a processing device in the
5 computer system and a peripheral device;
6 means for transmitting document data between the processing device
7 and the peripheral device in response to the command; and
8 means for archiving the document data in a memory in the computer
9 system in response to the command and transparently to execution of the
10 application program.

1 34. The apparatus defined in Claim 33 further comprising:

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